

IOWA BOARD OF NURSING

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| In RE: Petition for Declaratory Ruling | ) | Declaratory Ruling No. 56    |
| Filed by KaLynn Wenck                  | ) | Delegation of Inhalation     |
| January 30, 1992                       | ) | Medication Administration in |
|  | ) | a Residential Care Facility  |

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A petition for declaratory ruling was filed with the Iowa Board of Nursing by KaLynn Wenck, Director of Allied Health Services, New Hope Village, Carroll, Iowa, on January 30, 1992. Our interpretation of the question presented is:

Can a nurse employed by New Hope Village ICF/MR, with a physician's order, delegate inhalant medication administration via a nebulizer/compressor to a medication manager employed in an RCF/MR group home provided nurses are available at the main facility for consultation 24 hours a day?

The Board is authorized to issue declaratory rulings "as to the applicability of any statutory provision, rule, or other written statement of law or policy, decision or order of the agency" pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.9 (1991). See also Iowa Administrative Code, Nursing Board [655], Chapter 9.

Additional facts leading to this request are as follows:

1. New Hope Village is an ICF/MR and RCF/MR facility with nursing staff on duty 24 hours a per day in the ICF/MR.
2. The RCF/MR consists of cottages at the main facility site and off campus group homes approximately five minutes away from the ICF/MR.
3. There is always a nurse on call who could respond to emergencies.

4. The specific client concerned in this petition is a college graduate who is mentally capable of verbalizing all the procedures related to his inhalation medication administration but is physically incapable of performing the necessary psychomotor skills.

5. Historically the Board considers inhalation medication administration to be within the scope of practice of licensed nurses, and a non-delegateable procedure.

Rationale:

The Iowa Board of Nursing considers the administration of inhalation medication to be a nursing function. The procedure requires the knowledge and skills of a licensed nurse. However, due to the particular facts and circumstances in this case, a nurse employed by New Hope Village may delegate inhalation medication administration to a medication manager employed in an RCF/MR group home provided:

1. Nurses are available to the medication manager 24 hours per day for consultation.
2. The licensed nurse provides for the medication manager's inservice education and the nurse observes a successful return demonstration of the tasks being performed. Documentation of the same occurs in the medication manager's personnel file.
3. Annual observation of skills is performed by the licensed nurse with documentation in the medication manager file.

The licensed nurse shall retain full accountability for  
actions delegated.

Lorinda K. Inman  
Lorinda K. Inman, R.N., M.S.N.  
Executive Director  
Iowa Board of Nursing

March 5, 1992  
Date

Marjorie M. Matzen  
Marjorie M. Matzen, R.N., M.S.  
Chairperson  
Iowa Board of Nursing

March 5, 1992  
Date